



NEWS RELEASE

NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 24, 2006

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PATROL JOINS NATIONWIDE LIFESAVING EFFORT

The North Dakota Highway Patrol will join law enforcement agencies nationwide as part of the May Mobilization, safety restraint enforcement effort. From May 22 through June 4, 2006, troopers will join other law enforcement agencies in North Dakota and across the nation increasing their visibility on highways and intensifying enforcement efforts. Seat belt and child restraint laws will be strictly enforced!

Troopers will be assigned to work approximately 1150 hours of overtime over this 2-week time period in an effort to maintain high visibility on the state's highways. Funding for this effort is provided through a grant from the North Dakota Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Special emphasis will be placed on peak travel times, especially the Memorial holiday period. Troopers will be taking appropriate enforcement action against unbuckled vehicle occupants as well as cracking down on erratic driving behavior that increases the risk of and often results in the occurrence of a traffic crash. Motorists are encouraged to report erratic driving behavior or suspected impaired drivers by calling 911. So far in 2006, 43% of the fatal crashes in North Dakota have been alcohol related.

"The summer travel season really kicks off with the Memorial Day holiday period," said Colonel Bryan Klipfel. Increased traffic can be expected especially on highways leading to and surrounding lakes, rivers, parks and other outdoor recreation areas. "Troopers will be highly visible and working hard to prevent traffic crashes and help make your travel safe," said Klipfel. Two traffic deaths occurred on North Dakota highways during the 2005 Memorial holiday period.

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